

May 21, 1998

Pamela E. Goldstein  
Communications Manager  
City Of Newark

Dear Ms. Goldstein:

I was referred to you by Ms. Lucy Brown who I spoke with yesterday afternoon. In that conversation I was looking to speak with the Mayor regarding what I consider are heroes of the Holocaust who have never been recognized for their heroism overseas.

One such hero is my father who is approaching his 81st birthday on June 12. He lives here in the city of Newark where he and my mother have been homeowners since 1963. I found out that my dad helped to liberate Buchenwald. (excuse the spelling) under the leadership of General Patton. One day I walked into the den of my parents home and my father was sitting watching TV and he appeared emotionally distraught. Needless to say I was terribly disturbed by that. I had never seen my father cry before. He happened to be watching the holocaust documentary as well as a tribute to the survivors and liberators that was held at the Apollo Theatre in New York. I asked my father what was bothering him, he was 79 at the time and he said I was there! We liberated those poor people from that horrendous place in record time.

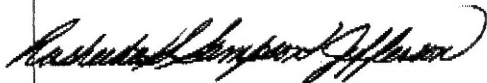
He saw survivors crawling toward him, he carried them to waiting trucks and took them to hospitals. After a week had passed he along with his buddies went back to the camp to see what they had actually done to the Jewish people. It is something that he never wanted to talk about again. He couldn't understand how people could be so mistreated just because of their ethnicity. The Afro-American soldiers suffered badly in Germany. I said/Dad unfortunately we're still dealing with it. Racism has reared it's ugly head again! Our soldiers came back to the states only to be hung from trees in their uniforms.

This was another terrible time in the history of human kind It very disturbing to me that we only remember a part of it and not remember and recognize other survivors of that time! My Father mentioned that the survivors called them the Black Angels. As I drive and see other Senior African-American men on the streets and streetcorners of this city. I wonder were they there do they know? Why have they been forgotten?

My fathers name is Otto Sampson Sr. I would be happy to put you in touch with him. My name is Rasheeda S. Sampson-Jefferson, I am an Artist/Teacher at the Newark Community School of the Arts. My work is 642-0133 and my home # private 746-9364. I plan to explore every area from the Mayors office on, to get this information out. We have heroes/sheroes in our midst whose stories are never told. Ignorance is not bliss nor is denial.

Ms Goldstein I am told that you are a good person to communicate with. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



Rasheeda S. Sampson-Jefferson